

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02
IO-13 PC-01 SCS-03 /108 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO OAU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
EURCOM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075274

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: ZAIRE SITREP

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND FOR
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DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. THERE WAS NO DISCERNIBLE CHANGE IN THE TACTICAL SITUATION OVER THE WEEKEND. THE FRONT REMAINS IN THE VICINITY OF KAYEMBE, APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES WEST OF KOLWEZI.

3. DOMESTIC SITUATION. THE "GIGANTIC RALLY OF SUPPORT"

FOR MOBUTU APRIL 3 WAS ATTENDED BY ONLY 15-20 THOUSAND UN-ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE IN A STADIUM WHICH HOLDS ALMOST 40 THOUSAND. A RUMORED ANTI-MOBUTU COUNTER DEMONSTRATION FAILED TO MATERIALIZE. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUED ITS CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENTS WITH THE ARREST AND DETENTION OF A NUMBER OF WELL KNOWN FIGURES.

4. PRESS CENSORSHIP. AP'S REPRESENTATIVE, MICHAEL GOLDSMITH, WAS EXPELLED BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU APRIL 4 FOR "PORTRAYING ZAIRE CONSISTENTLY IN A NEGATIVE WAY, AND "MISLEADING THE PEOPLE BY DISTORTING THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE." MOBUTU SAID THE ACTION WAS NOT DIRECTED AT THE US PRESS AS A WHOLE OR AP IN PARTICULAR BUT AT GOLDSMITH.

5. NIGERIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, THE NIGERIANS SUSPECT THAT ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO MAY BE INCLINED TO ACCEPT MEDIATION BUT THAT THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD AND MAY IMPEDE MEDIATION IN HOPES THAT THE EX-KATANGA GENDARMES WILL PRECIPATE THE FALL OF MOBUTU.

6. MEANWHILE, A REPORT FROM LAGOS QUOTES ANGOLA'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AS THANKING NIGERIA FOR ITS EFFORTS, BUT STATING THAT THE SITUATION IN SHABA WAS AN INTERNAL PROBLEM AND DID NOT NEED MEDIATION. FINALLY, AN ANGOLAN DELEGATION IS DUE IN LAGOS APRIL 5.

7. AMERICAN CITIZENS. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI HAS ARRANGED FOR A MISSIONARY PLANE TO AIRLIFT SEVEN PEACE CORPS
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VOLUNTEERS FROM KAMINA TO LUBUMBASHI. THERE WAS RADIO CONTACT WITH THE 10 MISSIONARIES DETAINED IN KAPANGA WHO REPORTED ONCE AGAIN THAT THEY WERE WELL.
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